

(a) Direct shipment from the beneficiary country to the United States without passing through the territory of any other country; or

(b) If the shipment is from a beneficiary developing country to the U.S. through the territory of any other country, the merchandise in the shipment does not enter into the commerce of any other country while en route to the U.S., and the invoice, bills of lading, and other shipping documents show the U.S. as the final destination; or

(c) If shipped from the beneficiary developing country to the United States through a free trade zone in a beneficiary developing country, the merchandise shall not enter into the commerce of the country maintaining the free trade zone, and

(1) The eligible articles must not undergo any operation other than:

(i) Sorting, grading, or testing,

(ii) Packing, unpacking, changes of packing, decanting or repacking into other containers,

(iii) Affixing marks, labels, or other like distinguishing signs on articles or their packing, if incidental to operations allowed under this section, or

(iv) Operations necessary to ensure the preservation of merchandise in its condition as introduced into the free trade zone.

(2) Merchandise may be purchased and resold, other than at retail, for export within the free trade zone.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a free trade zone is a predetermined area or region declared and secured by or under governmental authority, where certain operations may be performed with respect to articles, without such articles having entered into the commerce of the country maintaining the free trade zone; or

(d) If the shipment is from any beneficiary developing country to the U.S. through the territory of any other country and the invoices and other documents do not show the U.S. as the final destination, the articles in the shipment upon arrival in the U.S. are imported directly only if they:

(1) Remained under the control of the customs authority of the intermediate country;

(2) Did not enter into the commerce of the intermediate country except for the purpose of sale other than at retail, and the port director is satisfied that the importation results from the original commercial transaction between the importer and the producer or the latter's sales agent; and

(3) Were not subjected to operations other than loading and unloading, and other activities necessary to preserve the articles in good condition; or

(e)(1) Shipment to the U.S. from a beneficiary developing country which is a member of an association of countries treated as one country under section 507(2), Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2467(2)), through the territory of a former beneficiary developing country whose designation as a member of the same association for GSP purposes was terminated by the President pursuant to section 502(d), Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2462(d)), provided the articles in the shipment did not enter into the commerce of the former beneficiary developing country except for purposes of performing one or more of the operations specified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section and except for purposes of purchase or resale, other than at retail, for export.

(2) The designation of the following countries as members of an association of countries for GSP purposes has been terminated by the President pursuant to section 502(d) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462(d)):

The Bahamas
Brunei Darussalam
Malaysia
Singapore

[T.D. 76-2, 40 FR 60048, Dec. 31, 1975, as amended by T.D. 83-144, 48 FR 29684, June 28, 1983; T.D. 84-237, 49 FR 47992, Dec. 7, 1984; T.D. 86-107, 51 FR 20816, June 9, 1986; T.D. 92-6, 57 FR 2018, Jan. 17, 1992; T.D. 94-47, 59 FR 25569, May 17, 1994; T.D. 95-30, 60 FR 18543, Apr. 12, 1995; T.D. 00-67, 65 FR 59675, Oct. 5, 2000]

§ 10.176 Country of origin criteria.

(a) *Merchandise produced in a beneficiary developing country or any two or more countries which are members of the same association of countries—(1) General.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, any article which either is

wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of, or is a new or different article of commerce that has been grown, produced, or manufactured in, a beneficiary developing country may qualify for duty-free entry under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). No article will be considered to have been grown, produced, or manufactured in a beneficiary developing country by virtue of having merely undergone simple (as opposed to complex or meaningful) combining or packaging operations or mere dilution with water or mere dilution with another substance that does not materially alter the characteristics of the article. Duty-free entry under the GSP may be accorded to an article only if the sum of the cost or value of the materials produced in the beneficiary developing country or any two or more countries that are members of the same association of countries and are treated as one country under section 507(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2467(2)), plus the direct costs of processing operations performed in the beneficiary developing country or member countries, is not less than 35 percent of the appraised value of the article at the time it is entered.

(2) *Combining, packaging, and diluting operations.* No article which has undergone only a simple combining or packaging operation or a mere dilution in a beneficiary developing country within the meaning of paragraph (a)(1) of this section will be entitled to duty-free treatment even though the processing operation causes the article to meet the value requirement set forth in that paragraph. For purposes of this section:

(i) Simple combining or packaging operations and mere dilution include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) The addition of batteries to devices;

(B) Fitting together a small number of components by bolting, glueing, soldering, etc.;

(C) Blending foreign and beneficiary developing country tobacco;

(D) The addition of substances such as anticaking agents, preservatives, wetting agents, etc.;

(E) Repacking or packaging components together;

(F) Reconstituting orange juice by adding water to orange juice concentrate; and

(G) Diluting chemicals with inert ingredients to bring them to standard degrees of strength;

(ii) Simple combining or packaging operations and mere dilution will not be taken to include processes such as the following:

(A) The assembly of a large number of discrete components onto a printed circuit board;

(B) The mixing together of two bulk medicinal substances followed by the packaging of the mixed product into individual doses for retail sale;

(C) The addition of water or another substance to a chemical compound under pressure which results in a reaction creating a new chemical compound; and

(D) A simple combining or packaging operation or mere dilution coupled with any other type of processing such as testing or fabrication (for example, a simple assembly of a small number of components, one of which was fabricated in the beneficiary developing country where the assembly took place); and

(iii) The fact that an article has undergone more than a simple combining or packaging operation or mere dilution is not necessarily dispositive of the question of whether that processing constitutes a substantial transformation for purposes of determining the country of origin of the article.

(b) [Reserved]

(c) *Merchandise grown, produced, or manufactured in a beneficiary developing country.* Merchandise which is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of a beneficiary developing country, or an association of countries treated as one country under section 507(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2467(2)) and § 10.171(b), and manufactured products consisting of materials produced only in such country or countries, shall normally be presumed to meet the requirements set forth in this section.

[T.D. 76–2, 40 FR 60048, Dec. 31, 1975, as amended by T.D. 80–271, 45 FR 75641, Nov. 17, 1980; T.D. 00–67, 65 FR 59675, Oct. 5, 2000]